What is claimed is:

1. A lancing device comprising a plurality of lancets, wherein each lancet has a separate drive spring independently associated therewith to propel the lancet along a lancing stroke from a retracted position to an extended position.

2. The lancing device of Claim 1, further comprising a lancet retainer associated with each lancet, the lancet retainer movable between a first position in engagement with the lancet for holding the lancet in the retracted position, and a second position out of engagement with the lancet.

3. The lancing device of Claim 2, further comprising a housing defining a plurality of openings, each opening associated with a respective one of said plurality of lancets, and wherein each said lancet retainer covers a respective one of said plurality of openings when the lancet retainer is in its first position.

4. The lancing device of Claim 2, wherein each said lancet retainer comprises an arm having an inclined face for engagement with a cooperating surface of the associated lancet as the lancet retainer moves from its first position to its second position.

5. The lancing device of Claim 4, wherein the inclined face interacts with a cooperating portion of an endcap of the lancet to detach said endcap from the lancet.

6. The lancing device of Claim 4, wherein the inclined face interacts with the lancet to move the lancet into a cocked position.

7. The lancing device of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of lancets are arranged in a plane, and wherein each lancet comprises a detachable endcap that is moved out of said plane upon detachment.

8. The lancing device of Claim 1, further comprising a base having a plurality of pairs of lancet tracks, each pair of lancet tracks defining a path of travel of the lancing stroke for an associated one of the plurality of lancets.

9. The lancing device of Claim 1, further comprising a trigger button having a plurality of resilient fingers extending therefrom, each of said fingers releasably engaging one of said plurality of lancets.

10. The lancing device of Claim 9, wherein actuation of said trigger button simultaneously releases each of said fingers from its associated lancet.

11. A sampling device comprising the lancing device of Claim 1, releasably coupled to a detector component comprising test media, and to a meter for analyzing a collected sample of body fluid.

12. A lancing device comprising:

at least one lancet having a detachable endcap; and

a lancet retainer independently associated with each said at least one lancet, the lancet retainer movable between a first position and a second position,

wherein movement of the lancet retainer between the first position and the second position removes the detachable endcap from the lancet and retracts the lancet into a cocked position.

13. The lancing device of Claim 12, further comprising a housing defining an opening associated with each said at least one lancet, and wherein the lancet retainer associated with said lancet covers the opening in the first position and exposes the opening in the second position.

14. The lancing device of Claim 12, further comprising a separate drive mechanism for each lancet.

15. The lancing device of Claim 12, wherein the lancet retainer comprises a wedge, and wherein upon movement of the lancet retainer between the first position and the second position, said wedge drives the detachable endcap in an outward direction and drives the lancet in an inward direction.

16. The lancing device of Claim 12, comprising a plurality of lancets and a trigger capable of simultaneously releasing more than one lancet.

17. A lancing device comprising a plurality of lancets, wherein the lancets can be fired in any order.

18. The lancing device of Claim 17, wherein each lancet comprises a separate and independently operable drive mechanism.

19. The lancing device of Claim 18, wherein lancet is delivered to the user with the drive mechanism of each lancet cocked for firing.

20. The lancing device of Claim 19, further comprising a plurality of lancet retainers, each lancet retainer associated with one of said plurality of lancets and movable between a first position in engagement with the associated lancet and a second position out of engagement with the associated lancet.

21. A lancing device comprising:

a carrier base defining a plurality of guide channels;

a cover mounted on the carrier base to define a housing enclosing the plurality of guide channels and defining a plurality of openings, each opening aligned with an end of one of the guide channels;

a plurality of lancets, each lancet having a body with a sharp tip extending therefrom and an endcap removably positioned over the sharp tip, each lancet associated with one of the guide channels and traversing a path between a retracted position fully within the housing and an extended position wherein at least the sharp tip projects through one of the openings;

a plurality of drive springs, each spring interfacing at a first end with the housing and interfacing at a second end with one of the lancets;

a plurality of lancet retainers, each lancet retainer associated with one of the openings in the housing, and movable between a first position covering that opening

and a second position uncovering that opening, and wherein each lancet retainer retains its associated lancet in the first position and releases the associated lancet in the second position; and

a trigger operable to actuate any of the plurality of lancets released by its associated lancet retainer.

22. The lancing device of Claim 21, wherein each lancet retainer comprises a wedge, and wherein movement of the lancet retainer from the first position to the second position drives the wedge between the body and the endcap of the associated lancet to remove the endcap and uncover the sharp tip.

23. The lancing device of Claim 22, wherein each guide channel comprises a well for receiving the endcap of the associated lancet after separation from the lancet body, and retaining the endcap out of the path of the lancet.

24. The lancing device of Claim 22, wherein movement of the lancet retainer from the first position to the second position also energizes the associated drive spring.